

OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

Research Vessel HIHIMANU



Marine Grade Aluminum

LOA 36'; Beam 10'4"; Draft 24"

1-2 Crew, 9-10 passengers

Twin Mercury 250HP outboard engines

Cruise Speed: 21 kts

Top Speed: 33 kts

Range: 126 nm at cruise w/reserve
157 nm w/o reserve

R/V *Hihimanu* joined the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region's fleet, as the second boat for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), the first since PMNM's designation. The 11-meter (36-foot) R/V *Hihimanu* augments the PMNM small boat complement, significantly expands the Monument's seagoing capabilities. She also serves as a platform for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary on Maui where she is used for disentanglement and ship-strike response, tagging, observation, and health assessment of whales. The boat's elevated remote helm provides excellent visibility for safe operation around whales.

R/V *Hihimanu*'s primary mission is research and conservation. Other key missions are local research dives on various islands with other agencies, and proficiency skills testing. When not in Maui, R/V *Hihimanu* is home ported on O'ahu allowing for servicing, and other projects to be completed around the island. R/V *Hihimanu* is a flexible platform for the Monument that allows it to be used for a wide variety of missions and partnerships as they develop statewide.

Built by Silver Ships, Inc. in Theodore, AL, this AMBAR-class vessel has an aluminum hull and wheelhouse, collared with a foam-filled inflatable chamber making it ideal for operating around ships and piers. The enclosed cabin provides protection from the elements during inter-island crossings, and allows for the dry transport of gear and personnel.

